

March 10, 2019

Re: Support for Raised Bill No. 7295

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing in support of Raised Bill 7295, An Act Concerning A Recycling Program for Paper and Packaging and Requiring Certain Municipal Solid Waste Management Goals. I am a resident of Simsbury, one of about 30% of CT municipalities that takes a hands-off approach to curbside solid waste management. These communities have little if any incentive to make any significant changes to their curbside solid waste and recycling programs because residents hire a subscription hauler who controls how solid waste and recycling is collected. The hauler has little to no incentive to reduce waste or increase recycling, and customers' only real expectation is that their materials be collected curbside and taken "away." Requiring all municipalities to reach certain waste reduction benchmarks, as written in Section 2, pushes municipalities to consider more efficient, cost effective programs that will encourage residents to reduce the amount of trash they generate. Pay-As-You-Throw, while politically unpopular, is the only program that will reduce waste and increase efficiencies of a municipal solid waste program while reaping significant environmental benefits including reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This is something we as a society should be committed to and invested in.

Additionally, making manufacturers responsible for the costs of recycling or disposing of their product packaging, as outlined in Section 1, lifts the burden of cost off the municipalities, even if it means that cost gets ultimately placed on the consumer. This overall appears to be a more balanced approach where we all take responsibility. As a resident I would like my town to reduce waste, to be run more efficiently, and for the solid waste system to be more evenly distributed amongst the different parties within the system. This provision also gives producers the incentive to redesign their packaging for recyclability.

I strongly urge the Environment Committee to support Raised Bill No. 7295 as it will realign incentives for municipalities to be better stewards of the environment, reduce waste, and place the burden of costs of recycling on the rightful owner, the producers of packaging.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jason Polayes  
Simsbury, CT